In the Protocol for the yeari$94-95 signed between China and India, items of import interest for both the countries have been identified as under :—

Items of import interest of China	Items of import interest for India.
Mineral Ores	Raw silk and silk yarn
Iron & Steel	Agricultural and Native Produce.
Agricultural Chemicals	Light Industrial and stationery.
Engineering Products	Metals and minerals
Plywood	Chemicals and roleum products
Jewels and Processed	Fresh water pearls.
Diamonds	Engineering products
Synthetic fibre and	Pharmaceuticals. Ncwprint.

Infrastructural Requirements .for export promotion

1440. **SHRI** SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minsiter of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the, present status of the infrastructural requirements for export promotion; and

(b) how does Government propose to bring improvements in these infrastructural requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Export infrastructure requirements relate to utilities, production, energy, transportation, communication, banking, customs, service functions, etc., and are catered to by Government Departments, public and private agencies.

The export infrastructure in the country needs to be strengthened consistent with the surge in exports. Govt, has been taking measures progressively in regard to each sector. Communication links and technologies are being upgraded. Infrastructural investments for input support to production are underway. Procedural simplifications are under continuous implementations. In regard to transportation increased recourse has been taken to containerisation and multimodal transport of goods with attendant strengthening of the infrastructure at ports. In order to consolidate export cargp, Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) are being established at various locations in the country involving the private sector as well. An Open Sky-Policy for carriage of Air Cargo has been introduced to augment air cargo capacity.

Royalty on Coal

1441. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether royalty on Coal is paid on the basis of production of coal or despatch of coal;

(b) whether a request from any State suggesting changes in the basis of royalty paid has been received recently,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (AHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The existing rates of royalty on coal are on tonnage basis on coal produced.

(b) to (d) In Memorandum recently submitted by the State Government of Bihar to the Prime Minsiter of India, a request has inter-alia, been made for fixation of rovalty rate on coal on ad-valorem basis. The State Government of Bihar had made such request earlier to the Study Group set up by the Ministry of Coal on 20.1.1994 to consider the question of revision of royalty rates on coal. The. views of the various State Government had been considered by the Study Group before making its recommendations.